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UT DIV OIL/GAS J. HAZA
1594 W NORTH TEMPLE #1210
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-5801

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VERNAL Express

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Vernal, Utah 84078

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County to stay at local asphalt pit

by Steven Wallis
Express Editor

Uintah County has no intention of abandoning its interest in the asphalt pit.

For over 50 years, the asphalt at Asphalt Ridge has been a source of paving material for the majority of the roads in Uintah County. About three years ago it became evident that the location where the county had mined the asphalt was being depleted. The county retained the services of Engineer Robert "Bud" Covington, to determine if another source existed on the county's property and to determine the amount available.

Covington's study, which included over 16 test wells, showed that

there is approximately 1.4 million cubic yards of asphalt still available to the county at Asphalt Ridge. The asphalt, however is under up to 30 feet of overburden. In an agreement with Buena Ventura, a tar sands company with property at Asphalt Ridge, Uintah County has been able to use the company's property for a better access to the tar sands, and continue to provide asphalt for its uses. The company was able to development its own property under the county's mining permits and in exchange credited the county for asphalt. The company has since developed its own mining operation and will now deliver the county's asphalt in 80-ton loads to the county property.

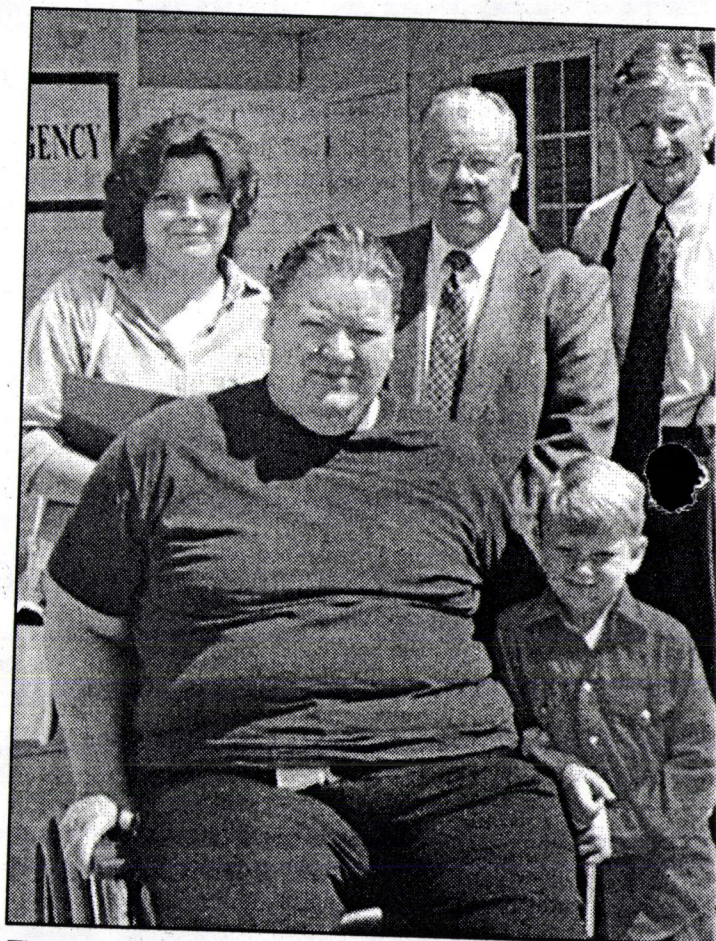
"We will be the last people to shut

the door on asphalt at Asphalt Ridge," said Commissioner Lewis Vincent. "We have a 20-year supply there and have been promised by the Barnes family, who owns the mineral leases, that the county will always have access to asphalt," said Vincent.

With the exchange agreement with Buena Ventura, the county will received \$4 to \$5 million in asphalt for a \$340,000 investment, Vincent said.

Lonnie Hogan, Uintah County Road foreman, said the county pays \$1.50 per ton for the asphalt.

"If Uintah County is doing to continue to pave as many roads as we have in the past, we need a good supply of asphalt," said Commissioner Vincent.



The Ljungvall family, John, Patricia and John Jr. are welcome CROWN home by Vernal City Mayor Bill Kremin and Wi Erickson, UHFA executive director